AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1.   (Currently Amended)   A method of supporting purchases of content over a public communication network from a content provider to a customer using an access operator for communication, as a server controlled by the content provider receives a purchase request for content over said public network from a terminal operated by the customer, ~~characterized by the following steps~~ comprising the steps of:

the content provider server sending a purchase indication message to a transaction router to indicate the purchase request and ask for validation of the purchase, the transaction router having established a trusted relationship with the content provider and with the access operator,

the content provider server sending a URL network address to the customer terminal to connect the customer with the transaction router for performing a purchase dialogue,

the transaction router validating the requested purchase in response to said purchase indication message, including checking whether the access operator approves the requested purchase, and asking the customer to confirm the purchase during said purchase dialogue,

the transaction router sending a purchase validation status of the access operator's approval and the customer's purchase confirmation, and

the content provider delivering content to the customer according to the requested purchase, if the purchase has been properly validated by means of the provided purchase status,

such that the access operator can charge the customer for the purchase.

2.   (Currently Amended)   A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in~~ wherein that the access operator charges the customer for the purchase by means of a subscription bill or a pre-paid card.

3.   (Currently Amended)   A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in~~ wherein that said purchase validation status is sent in response to a purchase status request from the content provider.

4.   (Currently Amended)   A method according to ~~any of claims 1-3~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in~~ wherein that validating the requested purchase further includes identifying the operator based on received customer identification for the customer.

5.   (Currently Amended)   A method according to claim 4, ~~characterized in~~ wherein that said customer identification is any of:
    a telephone number,
    a network address or
    a subscription identity.

6.   (Currently Amended)   A method according to claim 4 ~~or 5~~, ~~characterized in~~ wherein that validating the requested purchase further includes identifying the customer based on said received customer identification.

7.   (Currently Amended)   A method according to ~~any of claims 1-6~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in~~ wherein that a purchase confirmation is received after prompting the customer in the purchase dialogue.

8.   (Currently Amended)   A method according to ~~any of claims 1-7~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in~~ wherein that a charge request for the purchase is sent from the content provider to the transaction router when the content has been delivered.

9.   (Currently Amended)   A method according to ~~any of claims 1-8~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in~~ wherein that each of said established relationships includes a business agreement and necessary technical interfaces.

10.   (Currently Amended)   A transaction router having an established trusted relationship with each of a plurality of content providers and each of a plurality of access operators, respectively, wherein the transaction router is adapted to act as a common payment mediator between said operators and said content providers for content purchases over a public communication network, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

means for receiving a purchase indication message from a content provider server, said purchase indication message indicating that a content purchase is requested over the public network from a terminal operated by a customer using an access operator for communication,

means for performing a purchase dialogue with the customer who is connected to the transaction router by means of a URL network address sent from the content provider server,

means for validating the requested purchase in response to the received purchase indication message, by checking whether the access operator approves the requested purchase and asking the customer to confirm the purchase during said purchase dialogue, and

means for sending a purchase validation status to the content provider server including the status of the access operator's approval and the customer's purchase confirmation,

such that the content provider can deliver content to the customer according to the requested purchase if the purchase has been properly validated by means of the provided purchase status, and the customer can be charged for the purchase by the access operator.

11.   (Currently Amended)   A transaction router according to claim 10, ~~characterized in~~ wherein that said validation means includes means for identifying said access operator and said customer based on received customer identification.

12.   (Currently Amended)   A transaction router according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~, ~~characterized in~~ wherein that the transaction router is adapted to register the purchase including storing purchase information.

13.   (Currently Amended)   A transaction router according to claim 12, ~~characterized in~~ wherein that the transaction router is further adapted to send the purchase status in response to a purchase status request from the content provider.

14.   (Currently Amended)   A transaction router according to ~~any of claims 10-13~~ claim 10, ~~characterized in~~ wherein that the transaction router is further adapted to receive a charge request for the purchase from the content provider, as the content has been delivered.

15.   (Currently Amended)   A transaction router according to ~~any of claims 10-14~~ claim 10, ~~characterized in~~ wherein that the transaction router is further adapted to perform identification and authorisation of the customer, in order to validate the requested purchase.

16.   (Currently Amended)   A transaction router according to ~~any of claims 10-15~~ claim 10, ~~characterized in~~ wherein that the transaction router is further adapted to prompt the customer in said purchase dialogue to receive a purchase confirmation.

17.   (Currently Amended)   A transaction router according to any ~~of claims 10-16~~ claim 10, ~~characterized in~~ wherein that each of said established trusted relationships includes a business agreement and any necessary technical interfaces.